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Jesus captured in Gallery 210

"Divine Humility" comes alive and moves in the photographs of Robert Lewis, whose compositions hang on the walls of Gallery 210.

▲ See page 3

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

World Play project links kids across the world

BY JON MORRIS

Staff Writer

Six students from Webster Groves Elementary Computer School traveled to UM-St. Louis on Jan. 21 to "meet" their play partners in Scotland through the World Play Project.

The World Play Project is a pilot program linking students in St. Louis with students in other parts of the world through the Internet. Lori Schnieders, Assistant Professor in the Division of Counseling and Family Therapy at UM-St. Louis, started the program after seeing a similar project in action.

"(People) fear what we do not know," Schnieders said. "If we connect people (at an earlier age) we can have an understanding of each other and it would be a more pleasant world."

"The intent of the project is to begin building bridges which will open the doors for tolerance and acceptance."

- Lori Schnieders
Assistant Professor in the Division of Counseling and Family Therapy at UM-St. Louis

Schnieders is convinced that play is "the communal thread—all children play." By sharing their own common play experiences, Schnieders expects the children to discover how similar they are, regardless of ethnic background, family situation, or socio-economic status.

The United Kingdom was chosen as the first cohort because of the bilingual barrier presented by other countries. Speaking the same language across the world will serve as a stepping-stone to less familiar cultures in the future.

Students in the program, called "research partners," research their own square mile. This means they contact their parents, grandparents, and community members, called "keepers of the story," to find out about rituals, traditions, and plays.

"By researching our own square mile of existence and then by teaching it to fellow researchers from a different part of the globe, we will begin to see how the diversity that makes us who we are is really not so different from others geographically separated from us," Schnieders said.

"The intent of the project is to begin building bridges which will open the doors for tolerance and acceptance for each individual on our ever-shrinking globe."

In February, students from Avery Elementary in Webster Groves will meet with their research partners in Aberystwyth, Wales, and Thurso, Scotland respectively. Australia, Hong Kong, and Germany are also on the list of countries to participate with us in this project. Schnieders says, "my ultimate dream and vision is to involve children from all over the world."

Though the children are a little nervous about meeting students from across the world, Schnieders believes that the children will connect with each other.

"I believe we all smile in the same language," Schnieders said.

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U.N. rep speaks on human rights

BY SARA PORTER

Senior Writer

Danilo Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations, said that there was a fine line between the U.N.'s involvement in human rights and the need for national sovereignty. His lecture in the Millennium Student Center was a part of the Center for International Studies' lecture series, "Human Rights in Global Perspective."

"The United Nations is defined by a new profound awareness to look beyond the frames of states and look at the men and women," Türk said.

"It is a powerful visionary statement, but not an evolutionary one," Türk said, as he described the U.N.'s charter at the end of WWII during the Geneva Convention, which involved the U.N. in human rights.

"One of the main focuses is it tries to remain universal by extenuating at the turn of adoption," Türk said. "It still raises arguments of diversity and nationalism."

Even though arguments about interference in world affairs have raised such issues as diversity, Türk said that basic human rights are required for three reasons. They

have become a part of international law; they are needed by everyone in the world.

"Evolution has made it clear that human rights is an acceptable value," Türk said.

Türk said that there are four ways the U.N. uses to implement intervention in world affairs. First, is the establishment of national treaties.

"It was established three decades ago and needs more to support its strength," Türk said.

The second means for involvement is human rights reporters and country reports that deal with violations.

"That system can be improved," Türk said. "It does not explain all the contextual issues. We need to conduct a policy that needs to be followed."

The third and fourth means for involvement are in human rights field operations and establishing an international court.

"Now it is important to address the context of field operations," Türk said. "The criminal court will be in focus later this year to try those responsible for genocidal crimes."

The issue of national sovereignty is often discussed when dealing with intervention in human rights



Maggie Matthews/The Current

Danilo Türk, assistant secretary general for political affairs of the U.N., said that there was a fine line between the U.N.'s involvement in human rights and the need for national sovereignty.

violations, Türk said.

"Only the beginning of how sovereignty should be [used] to understand the fundamental, political, legal, and conceptual," Türk said. "It is not absolute sovereignty and supreme authority and absolutist created many problems. It is not static, it evolves."

Towards the end of the evening,

many questions of world events were asked, such as the capture of accused terrorists in Guantanamo Bay.

"Fundamentally it is really a legal matter," Türk said. "It is relative as to however these people are treated to the law of illegal combatants."

"All persons whether they are criminals or not are protected by the basic rights of human rights," Türk

said. "It is purely a court decision whatever will be made."

The United Nations could reform in some ways, Türk said.

"If I could provide miracles, I would improve the General Assembly," Türk said. "It is very sad that it has failed." "We require knowledge of facts that could not resolve in a single mission"

Area leaders emerge from UM-St. Louis

BY AMANDA MUELLER

Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis recently implemented a new program to train volunteers and staff members at local community organizations to become better leaders.

The program, called The Neighborhood Leadership Academy, has four sponsors. The three sponsors from UM-St. Louis include: The Public Policy Research Center, The Nonprofit Management and Leadership Program, and The Outreach and Extension office. The Coro Midwestern Center is also sponsoring the program.

Program Manager Kay Gasen hopes that the program will teach students "basic skills that will improve their organizations immediately."

Several different neighborhood and revitalization groups, such as the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, will be part of the class. "We want a small class, because we want to ensure that students receive individual attention," Gasen says.

The class was designed to accommodate 20 students but response was so great that Gasen had to admit five more. Because enrollment was so high, the class will most likely be offered again next year.

In these classes, students will create projects that they can implement at their organizations. To build these projects, students will learn communication skills, community development strategies, and leadership and management techniques.

Instructors will come from non-profit organizations. Gasen says that she hopes to have some guest speakers, although none are lined up yet.

Students who graduate will earn 4.35 continuing education credit hours and a Certificate in Neighborhood Leadership from the university. The fee for the class is \$180 and is comprised of nine sessions.

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy Courses offered:

Opening Session
Jan. 15, 5:30 - 9 p.m.

The Art of Effective Communication
Jan. 26, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Leadership Practices I Feb. 5, 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Leadership Practices II Feb. 23, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Community Building Principles
March 5, 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Community Building Practices
March 16, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Board Development & Volunteer Mobilization
April 9, 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Fund Development
April 27, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Closing Session
May 14, 5:30 - 9 p.m.

SBAC allocations underway for the new school year

BY MICHELLE ELKINS

Special to the Current

Student organizations' budget proposal for the 2002-2003 school year submission deadline was 5 p.m. Jan. 18 to receive part of the \$660,000 allocation. Funded by the student activity fee recently increased to \$3.00 by SGA approval, the 220,000 enrolled hours multiplied by the fee determines the allocation amount.

The proposal is a detailed report of monies needed to produce programming that will enrich the university community. The report had to contain the following items: the mission statement had to be clearly stated, mention of previous successful programming, work with other organizations and an outline of expenses for events such as speaker fees, advertising and supplies. Eligibility for funding requires recognition through the Office of Student Activities. Once recognized, the group must perform one year of service and attend a required budget workshop. Ten new organizations were established for the 2002-2003 school year. First time recognized organizations could only receive \$500.

The Student Budget Allocation Committee has a diversity requirement to ensure fair representation of all organizations. Comptroller Brian King explains, "the board covers all ethnicities, with women to men ratio 60-40 percent, 14 percent African Americans and one percent International on campus; the panel

makes up a combination of those students." Eleven students, nine voting members and two alternates make the committee. The alternates have no vote. SBAC constitution states alternates can only comment and keep track of records in case someone resigns. There are never more than

enrolled students, involvement in functions is minimum."

If organizations can somehow demonstrate in their requests how they can increase participation, give more back to the students, the amount will be greatly considered," King said.

"The college experience is not just classroom, it is learning how to network with others and use money efficiently."

-Brian King
Comptroller

nine voting members and no fewer than five. King's job as comptroller is to oversee and organize the committee in helping them reach a decision and can only vote in the event of a tie.

The committee looked for specific criteria in making an allocation decision. The first priority was to make sure the organization lives up to its mission statement and verifies what they have proposed to do. Historical allocations were checked as well as the success of previous programming.

"We also look at the practicality, of course. We can't allocate a million dollars. We look to see if requests are feasible," King said. "Participation is largely the influence that will determine approval amounts. With 16,000

Sincerity of the requests was also taken into consideration. Once an idea of an allocation amount is reached a message is posted on-line for the committee to respond or make comments. The committee may discuss four to five budgets a day; during the week at least 12 proposals are discussed online. Every Friday a decision is made for an allocation amount.

How much organizations can expect to receive is unknown, awards will vary from organization to organization based on previous programming. Requesting a reasonable amount including plans to increase student participation will guarantee budget increases.

"Participation must be justified in the proposal or it will be cut down," King said.

With so many students not active in organizations, one tends to wonder how important is it to be involved. "Extremely," King said.

"The college experience is not just classroom, it is learning how to network with others and use money efficiently. You have people behind your specific goal and get to interact in a productive manner. Organizations facilitate the opportunity for students to learn these particular skills," King said.

Murray State U. reacts to state budget cut; sounds familiar

BY JASON BILLINGSLEY

Murray State News

(U-WIRE) MURRAY, Ky. - The site is Frankfort, Ky., the battle ground is the 2002 General Assembly and the goal is to secure as much state funding as possible in a bad economy to ensure the continuing growth of Murray State University.

Gov. Paul Patton spared higher education from budget cuts in previously announced cuts throughout the last few months but announced a 1.8 percent cut in higher education's budget (totaling \$18.4 million) in December. The budget for K-12 education in Kentucky was untouched in Patton's budget proposal.

University President King Alexander said K-12 education should be left untouched because of its needs.

"The greatest economic and social returns to a state occur from the education of its children," Alexander said. "It is our kindergarten, first grade and second grade teachers that are the least credited and the most important part of education."

Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Tom Denton said the 5 percent operating budget holdback the University issued in anticipation of state budget cuts will absorb the near 2 percent cut announced in December by Patton's office.

After giving 1 percent of the hold-

back back to University department administrative heads, the University still has 2 percent of its holdback available to be given back to the departments or used to offset more state budget cuts, depending on the revenue generated in the next fiscal year.

"We are continuing to hold onto the 2 percent in case the economy does not pick up," Denton said. "Our conservatism on cuts has assisted in this first cut, and holding 2 percent will put us into good position in case the economy doesn't pick up or we experience further state cuts."

Denton said University officials knew Murray State could not avoid state budget cuts forever.

"We knew we could no longer be

spared from participation (in budget cuts)," Denton said. "There was not much surprise by anyone who had followed the situation closely. The governor's office had prepared us well in anticipation of a cut."

Denton said it was premature to speculate whether another tuition increase in addition to the one passed last fall would be necessary to make up possible shortcomings in revenue.

"There is a whole round of discussion needed in looking at how any future funding would need to be derived," Denton said. "If there were continuing state reductions, there would need to be a review of all revenue budget adjustments."

Student Government Association

President Nikki Key said the budget cut is disappointing.

"You ask people if they want better education opportunities for our generation and they say yes," Key said. "You ask them if they want to pay for it, and the answer is no. That's where a huge problem lies."

Alexander also said education is extremely important for Kentucky right now.

"Higher education is at the apex of its importance in Kentucky," Alexander said. "It has never been more important. More people need higher education and more people want higher education. We have pres-

see BUDGET, page 8

Put it on the Board:
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5:00 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

The Gateway Community Blood drive will be held in Century room A from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information call Nurse Amy in University health Services at x4857.

Connecticut-based quintet Elite Syncopation will perform at 8 p.m. at The Sheldon Concert Hall. The concert is sponsored by Premiere Performances at UMSL. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Call x5818 for more information.

Sigma Pi will be hosting a Brotherhood Barbecue at the fraternity house, 8645 Natural Bridge Road, starting at 7 p.m. Stop a brother on campus, or call Dave Powers at 808-4510 for more info.

From 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. in 327 MSC learn how to find the job you're looking for and gain a competitive edge in the job market. Advance registration is required for this free workshop; call x5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

Larry Kirwan, singer/songwriter of Black 47 will perform in the Music Building, room 205 from 12:30 - 1:45. Admission is free and open to the public.

Mass will be held at the South Campus Residence Hall starting at 8:30 p.m. A social event will immediately follow the mass.

Dr. Andre Gerolymatos will speak on Cyprus and the European Union in the 21st Century at 7:30 p.m. in Century room A in MSC. Reception 7 p.m. R.S.V.P. x7299.

From 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. in 327 MSC learn about the job search resources available to students and alumni through Career Services. Advance registration is required; call x5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

Sigma Tau Gamma is having a Graffiti Party at their house. Markers and t-shirts will be provided. For information, call Matt Berra at 952-4708.

Sigma Pi will be hosting it's fourth rush party starting at 9:30 at the fraternity house, 8645 Natural Bridge Road. This week, it's a trip to the islands for the Sigma Pi Luau. Women must be 18+ and men need a valid college ID. Call Dave Powers at 808-4510 for more information.

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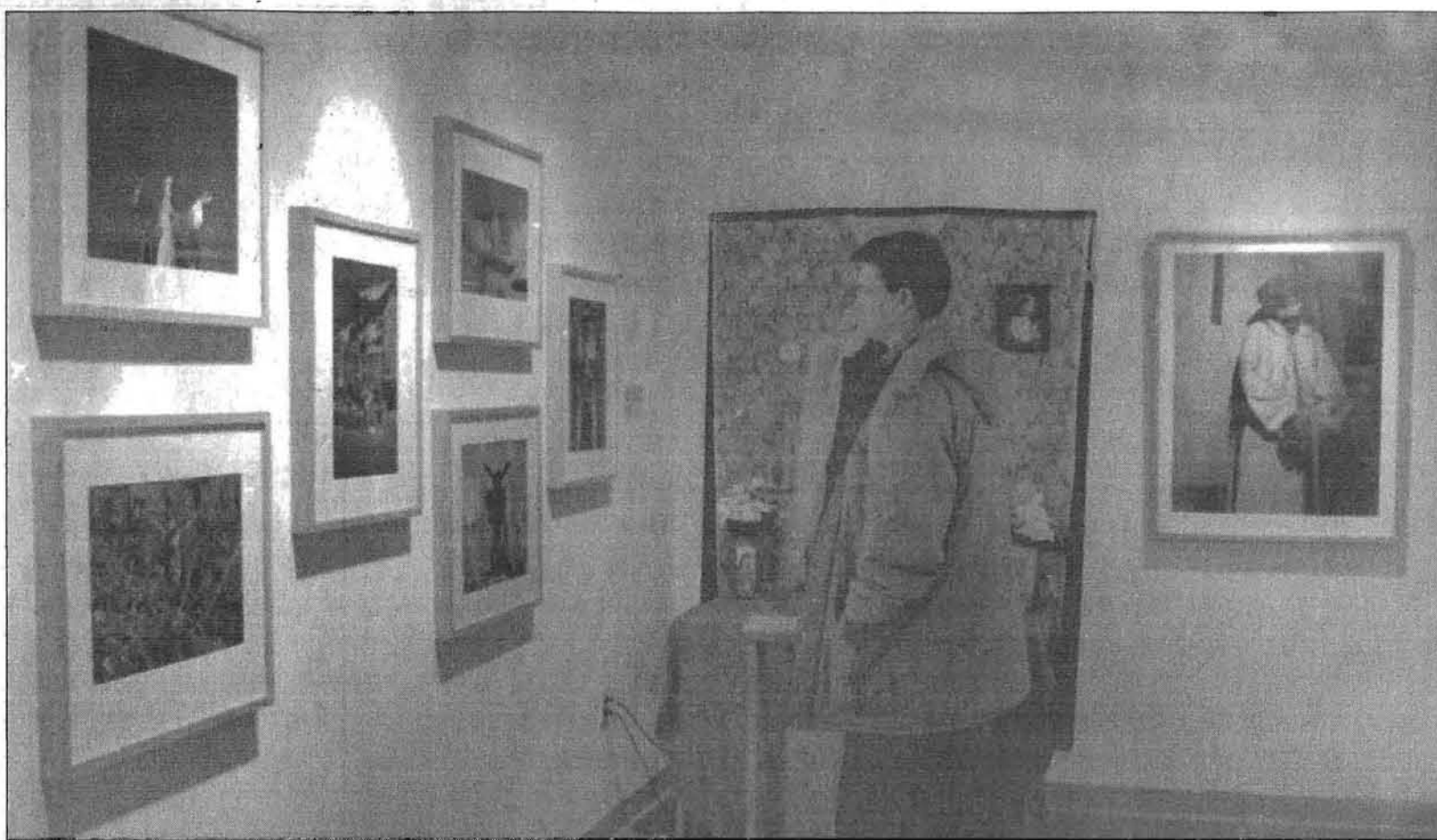
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"The very common person, the poor person, inherits this world and has to fabricate the world around them. It's always been of my interest to show that."

Robert Lewis, Photographer



Bob Miller, a Philosophy major, views the photography of Robert Lewis in Gallery 210.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jesus captured in Gallery 210

BY EMILY UMBRIGHT
Staff Editor

Humility comes alive and moves in the photographs of Robert Lewis, a professor at the University of Memphis, whose compositions hang on the walls of Gallery 210. His showcase, "Divine Humility: Jesus Icons in Contemporary Mexico," is an attempt to capture the essence of holiness manifesting itself within the Mexican culture.

"I think of making art as a way of objectifying the world around me," Lewis said. "The very common person, the poor person, inherits this world and has to fabricate the world around them. It's always been of my interest to show that."

The photographs that make up the "Divine Humility" exhibit appear in many ways to be taken for the purpose

of documentation, rather than artistic endeavor. They convey the culture, the history, and the tradition of Catholicism in Mexico. The images of Jesus are mere physical representations of a belief system, religious catalysts for the people to feel an intimate connection to their savior, whose suffering can be felt in the more dramatic photographs.

"Christ is very much in the streets with the people with his suffering," Lewis said. "They see that and can relate to that suffering."

"One thing I was ignoring in the beginning was that this iconography is so dominant," he said explaining his early grips with the subject. "It has such a dominance in their culture."

Lewis chose to document the figures after watching a man kneel and pray to an icon. He was "deeply moved by his intimacy and direct

communication."

"I saw this moment as being very real and very special," Lewis said. "The communion these people had with the figure—they speak to the figure as if it's an aunt or uncle—it's a very open kind of communication."

Struck most by passionate communications deriving from icons, Lewis depicts the figures driving the faithful in daily life. To display the religious presence pervading Mexican culture, he took photos of images Jesus in churches, cemeteries, and shops. One eye-teasing piece, "Store Selection," is a mosaic of crucifixions of similar mold but of different sizes hanging on a patched-up, teal wall.

"It looks like they're flying in the sky," one attendant judged based on the camera angle and sense of depth created by the different sizes. Lewis' store photos capture the necessity for

the icons and the faith of the people that wills them to spend money for security.

"Crypt and Cross" is another interesting piece that catches Jesus standing on a crypt, with ominous storm clouds looming in the background. The symbolic cross, a telephone pole, rises above the tomb and seems to convey the integration of modernity with faith and tradition.

While the two previously mentioned works depict the humility of the believers, pictures like "Jesus with Pinned Milagros" and "Home Alter" illustrate the personalization each individual makes in expressing their faith. In "Jesus with Pinned Milagros," trinkets and family photographs are safety-pinned to a tortured-looking Jesus icon. Lewis mentioned that women would stand outside the churches and sell milagros to

people as they went inside to pray. The home alters, according to Lewis, also become personal representations of faith.

"It is the center of the home," he said. The exhibit had a display of what an authentic home alter would look like with candles, photographs, flowers, and crucifixes.

Through documenting the spirituality in Mexican life, Lewis came to realize the intensity of the culture, as well as the values and close family ties.

"It really took me some place. This was something special for me," he said. "It wasn't something I would do [normally] because it's an old subject, but it turned out to be something very contemporary."

Gallery 210, located in Lucas Hall, is open Tuesday-Thursday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Events celebrate the life of civil rights leader

BY MICHELLE ELKINS
Special to The Current

Monday, Jan. 21 the nation celebrated the legacy of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. UM-St. Louis was no exception in taking part in this national day of observance by developing an essay contest in which to honor Dr King. Participants were to indicate how Dr King's teachings relate to today's events with the question, "In light of Sept. 11, what would Dr King have to say?"

A spirited competition, \$500 for first place, \$300 for second and \$200 for third, incurred a number of essays. Several students received a certificate of recognition for their entry, Bertin Kouadio, Karen Riggings, Joseph W. Flees, Erin Meyer and Elizabeth Wilson. Jason E. Williams received third place, Angel Carter for second and the Grand Prize winner Jennifer Greer, a junior communications student.

Greer's essay truly captured the philosophy Dr. King preached and taught about. Greer says, "Dr King would stand by his peaceful philosophy despite Sept. 11. According to King's teachings, non-violence is the high road to power. Violence is not a sign of strength; it is a sign of weakness and hatred. Dr King would tell America to not let hate harbor in their hearts. Dr. King would want America to join in prayer for the families of lives lost and for the people that committed the terrorist attacks."

"We should renew our devotion to the mission of social justice and non-violent change."

-Khatib Waheed
senior associate of Aspen Institute

The celebration would not be complete without song. Drummond Crenshaw music major and office assistant to building services lead the audience with "Lift Every Voice and Sing." A soul-stirring rendition of "If I can Help Somebody, My Living is Not in Vain," performed by Marabeth Gentry, truly captured the essence of King Holiday leaving the audience crying out in praise. The University Community Chorus performed "A Man with A Dream" made reference to Dr King's life.

Born the son of a preacher in Atlanta, GA, the song speaks of the obstacles he overcame as the leader of the civil rights movement included a replica performance of quotations from the infamous "I Have a Dream"



Marabeth Gentry sings, "If I can help somebody" at the Dr Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday, Jan. 21.

Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

speech.

Robert Ray, professor of music, was the accompanist in all-musical selections.

In addition, a special panel was created to voice the meaning of Dr. King from various cultures. The panel

included Rabbi Susan Talve and Khatib Waheed, senior associate of Aspen Institute. Waheed focused on the educational aspect of Dr. King's teachings.

"We should renew our devotion to the mission of social justice and non-

violent change, seek righteous, not revenge." Waheed went on to say how institutions must make changes to end racial discrimination intendancies such as blaming the poverty for their own poverty.

The final panel member Olivia Ly-

Take back the control of your coffee

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE



EMILY UMBRIGHT

Lucas Hall is home to one of the best-kept secrets on this campus, and no it's not NPR, but it is close. Following the hallway around the corner is the fastest and cheapest way to get coffee. No lines and 60 cents.

I say we start a boycott. Somebody call in Juan Valdez, the Columbian Coffee mascot. The entire coffee industry has become exploited. It's obviously an abundant product (there are five places I can think of on this campus), and yet we poor, struggling college students must decide if we want to eat or get wired. While I admit it could be worse in that we are not the actual workers, the price of coffee continues to rise and I doubt it is completely due to fair trade. The price has

risen to nearly two dollars this semester, from \$1.60 last semester. When will it stop?

Name brands and designer coffees, the finest blends imported from Indonesia, Africa and South America have deprived us all of the thing that matters most: a quick fix. Have we become so brainwashed by tastes and trends that we have forgotten our coffee drinking motives or do we simply not see an alternative?

Never fear! There is an alternative. It comes from a machine, which conveniently offers such amenities as sugar and "whitener" in amounts to suit your fancy. It even offers a choice in the strength of coffee. In this age of customization, how much more personal can a machine be? If

you still cannot manage to give up the name, let me just say this machine is loaded with Maxwell House coffee, a brand name embracing the golden days of American culture. It's "good to the last drop" and offers mochas too.

I must admit, however, my snobbery when it comes to coffee consumption. I have little tolerance for the "instant cappuccinos" that come out of machines at gas stations. Any jolt one gets from the drink is due to the high sugar content rather than the caffeine. This may seem like a contradiction to everything I just said; yet I feel no guilt in drinking from an instant coffee brewer machine. It's got all I need. I will also admit that my taste in blends when I drink actu-

al designer coffee is a bit pretentious. This is justified by the fact that I like the taste of coffee and drink it straight not adding any sweeteners. However, I think my motives are in the right place when I sacrifice exquisite taste by opting for the cheaper coffee.

My point is that this addiction has transformed itself into a necessity for myself and others like me and while there is a demand, which allows for such inflated prices in coffee, it seems ridiculous simply because people like me would buy more if we could afford it. I for one am more than satisfied settling for a cheap cup of coffee to get me through the day. Besides, as of now, there are no lines of people waiting at the machine.

EDITOR

EDITOR

EMILY UMBRIGHT
Features Editor

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Black '47 singer,
Larry Kirwan, to
perform at UMSL

BY KELLI SOLT
Senior Writer

Stark contrast from packed New York City Irish pubs and sweat driven sets, singer/songwriter Larry Kirwan will be performing at UM-St. Louis Tuesday, Jan. 29. The concert will be held at 12:30 p.m. in room 205 of the Music Building.

Kirwan, the lead singer of the Irish American rock group, Black '47, recently released a solo album titled "Kilroy Was Here" which features his profound lyrics with softer instrumentals.

Known for his powerful storytelling lyrics, his latest CD release, "Kilroy was Here" focuses the spotlight on his solo voice and acoustic guitar; a variety of other musicians add to the background music. The 11-song album received many good Internet reviews.

Kirwan formed Black '47 in New York in 1989 and has released 10 albums with the band; he is also a playwright. The name of the band comes from the black year of Irish history in 1847 when the potato famine was at its worst. The band quickly became popular on the New York City scene as politically driven lyrics and an "in your face attitude" drew crowds to the confrontational shows. They have performed over 2,000 gigs,

see KIRWAN, page 8

STUDENT OPINION

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Under Current
by **Maggie Matthews**
staff photographer

What should next week's Undercurrent question be?

OUR OPINION

Student Apathy and the SGA: the classic ballet

What would happen if one day the entire legislative body of the United States decided to skip out on three whole months of their session? Well, nothing would get done, and the powerbrokers in Washington would get what they wanted, without any opposition.

This in essence is what is happening on the UM-St. Louis campus; we have no Student Senate. We the students have no voice in many important decisions that affect both our pocketbooks and our daily lives. We are mute.

Right now, the Student Senate Organization (SSO) is in need of 13 students that would be interested in representing their peers as student senators. The only problem is that there are a total of 13 available student seats on the Student Senate; currently there is no one. Where did all the people go? Because of the lack of student involvement, the UM-St. Louis "Powerbrokers" are walking all over us, the students.

Now imagine that the Supreme Court walked out and left the executive branch in total charge of the entire government. Although it is doubtful that chaos would ensue, it is almost certain that things would not run as smoothly as if three healthy and functioning governing bodies were actively participat-

ing in the process of running the country.

This too is happening at UM-St. Louis, with the SSO in cardiac arrest and the Student Court unsuccessfully catering to parking issues, the SGA has been left in control of the entire student government scene.

The SGA is also suffering from a lack of student involvement. Although members of the SGA are not apathetic, they are being debilitated by the fact that 16,800 of their fellow students don't care about what they are trying to do.

We have a resolution that we would like to present to you, the students and the SGA:

WHEREAS, let it be stated that the SGA and the SSO's woes correlate to a lack of student involvement;

WHEREAS, we also believe that this was precipitated by the fact that the SGA is not well known among the student body it is meant to serve;

WHEREAS, the SGA does not use all of the advertising mediums available to inform the student body of what they are trying to do and what their mission statement might be (if it exists);

WHEREAS, due to this lack of student support, the SGA has remained in the control of a relatively small group of people.

WHEREAS, compounding the notion among students that the SGA is a hand-picked "good ol' boys network" organization;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, the Editorial Board, are writing this farcical "Resolution" to alert the student body to the current state of our student government as a whole and to remind the SGA that one of the reasons that they are having involvement problems in some areas is because a majority of the student body considers their school day

NEXT YEARS S.G.A. BALLOT

Σ.Γ.Α.

FOR PRESIDENT

☐ JOE MAMA

☐ PENNY PINSCHER

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

☐ IDA KNOWE

☐ PETE MOSS

STUDENT CONGRESS

☐ HERMAN THE FLYING TORTOISE (UNOPPOSED)

E REED '02

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: Editorial on the Student Union

The Building Operations staff is committed to its mission of "building a climate for success by fostering a sense of community among students, faculty and staff thus providing a marketplace, meeting areas, activities and offices for student services within a clean, safe and student-friendly environment." For the most part, we are making great strides toward fulfilling our mission.

We agree that there were some inconveniences associated with the job fair held in the Millennium Student

Center on January 16. But, were they the result of haphazard planning or a reflection of the needs of our community? This event was co-sponsored by Public Policy and Research (a campus department) and the Missouri Career Center whose primary audience may have been the community at-large, but many of our students undoubtedly benefited from the experience. When the event was booked, the estimated attendance was 350. No one anticipated the response the event received.

Learning from this experience and looking forward, there are some questions we will ask of those requesting space in the Millennium Student Center and procedures that will be implemented regarding parking and crowd control that will, hopefully, prevent a repeat of January 16, and yet, still allow us to be of service to our students as well as the community at-large.

The Staff

What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about?

- Student Apathy and the SGA
- Rams Fever in St. Louis
- Inspiration

You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at thecurrentonline.com

Super Bowl

Oh, the Super Bowl! Lately it seems that this has become a mainstay on the St. Louis calendar of events, and none to soon if you ask me.

Being a former sports guy myself, I still stay pretty up-to-date with the wide world of sports. But, unlike my counterparts, this week I will not dissect the Lovie Smith defensive mindset or the latest on Kurt Warner's left toe; this is not a sports column.

The pageantry of the St. Louis Rams has wholly captured the spirit of a city that has seen little to relish in; this is the focus of my column.

Although not born in the 'Lou, or even the Show-Me State for that matter, I consider myself a St. Louisan at heart; this is my hometown. (Consequently, I am very displeased at Imo's recent decision to offer regular crust with it's pizza orders, but that's for another time)

My family and I moved here in the mid-80's, in the midst of Cardinal fever. The Redbirds had won in '82 (one of my families first memories of the Gateway City) and were pushing for a title in '85, and my family was taken aback by this. Coming from the South, our team was the Arkansas

Razorbacks [insert ethnic joke here] so we are sports junkies at heart.

I'm not for certain, but I'd say a deciding factor in our eventual move to St. Louis, besides the job market, would have had to been the sports.

Sports runs wild in my family, and hold many milestones in our blood.

My grandfather played soccer in the Air Force.

My dad played running back with football hall of famer Dan Hampton, of Chicago Bears fame, in high school (My mom, before marrying my old man, was engaged to Hampton)

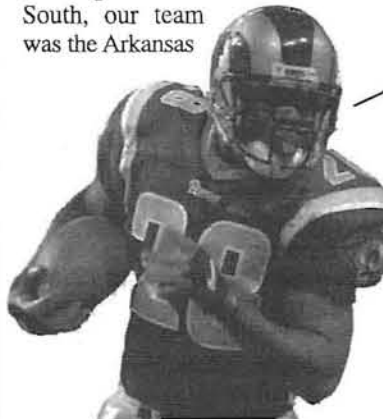

My dad went to college with NBA superstar Scottie Pippen at the University of Central Arkansas.

When I was five years old, I was babysat by none other than St. Louis Cardinals strong safety Leonard Smith. (My mom went to college with his wife, Lana.)

But back to my focus, this column is written to the nay-sayers who think that sports has no place in the modern world, that it is simply entertainment; I will defend the legitimacy of sports without even touching the billions of dollars that they generate into the economy.

Put quite simply, we all need something to believe in. To some, it's the Lord or a deity. To others, a certain organization or dogma. Some choose the family as their reason for existence. A to a large population of males, as well as the modern female, it's the St. Louis Rams who hold my vote. So if you'll pardon me, I've got a service to attend, so next week's edition may be a little late!

NICK BOWMAN
Editor-in-Chief



Two inspirations at the same time

My 16-year-old sister is learning academics and learning about teachers at her high school. She tells me about her current teachers that I've had when I went to the high school, and I give her the inside info on the teacher. Which teacher is a stickler, which one is easy, which one who likes to run his mouth. She then told me what was going on with the teachers I had, including my two favorites Mr. Wehling and Dr. Sefrit.

I liked Mr. Wehling as an English teacher and Dr. Sefrit as an accounting teacher because they combined the two subjects that I enjoyed the most—writing and journalism.

I've known Mr. Wehling the longest. I was in his freshman English class, as well as his poetry class in my senior year. Mr. Wehling was very similar to the Robin Williams character in "Dead Poets Society." Mr. Wehling was a very eccentric teacher, full of energy and always trying to have his students pick up on his vibe.

Mr. Wehling was good at pumping life into books and poetry that otherwise might be considered boring. Mr. Wehling used every ounce of himself to find a passage or angle which would make the reading more appealing to high school students.

Mr. Wehling also did a great job of putting up with me in general. I was a very angry student when I was a freshman, as well as writing dark

poetry during my senior year. During my senior year, Mr. Wehling wrote back to me in an assignment that he didn't quite know how to communicate with me, especially during my freshman year. But he did his best, and I was able to become a better writer.

Dr. Sefrit was the one who inspired me to the world of accounting. I remember taking an accounting class during the fall of my junior year.

I was a little tired, and like a few other students, decided to put my head down during his lecture. Dr. Sefrit slammed his hand down, and yelled at us to sleep on our own time.

It was the rude awakening that I needed at that time. I was a C+ student now earning A's every quarter in his class after that incident. I studied and did my best on his tests. I didn't want him to blow up at me for bad grades.

As the year wore on, the class saw a different side of the Dr. Sefrit. We had conversations about his accounting career and life in general. It turned out that Dr. Sefrit was like a tough-love dad: a very caring and a very concerned teacher, while not being afraid to let his students know if he was unhappy with their performance.

The years may have gone by, and many teachers fade into oblivion. However, the teachers with the best motivational skills stay with you for a lifetime.

STEVE VALKO
Managing Editor



Amanda Wilson
Senior / Biology

Do you think that the flags of the United States and Missouri should be displayed in the SGA hall?



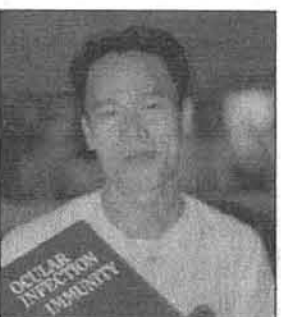
William Merritt
Junior / Secondary Education

What do you think of the treatment of our prisoners in Guantanamo Bay?



Tracy McCray
Junior / Marketing

What do you think UMSL can do to enhance the quality of classes?



Matthew Thai
Second Year / Optometry

Have you ever paid \$243 for a textbook?

Men win in Wisconsin, fall at home

BY CHARLIE BAILEY
Staff Writer

As the trend for the UM-St. Louis men's basketball team continues to be drama, the results have not been favorable. But since most of the turmoil that the team has had to deal with has come on the road, this final game was a good reminder that there is no place like home.

The last game on this long road trip was in the house that cheese built, where the Rivermen would face the 11-7 Rangers from Wisconsin-Parkside. The 60-57 victory for the Rivermen was long in the waiting for both the team and the basketball program as a whole.

Behind the brilliant guard play of both Deryn Carter and Derrick Redd, who both scored in double digits, the Rivermen controlled the tempo of the entire game. Although the game was very fast paced, the ability of the backcourt to control the time, and most importantly the ball, was the main reason that the Rivermen could control the outcome of the game.

Because the Rivermen only sank three three-point field goals, the game was mainly decided in the paint and with many points on the break. Another factor that contributed to the success of the Rivermen was the ability to score when the clock was not running. Shooting 21-31 from the foul line helped the team accomplish in an area that has plagued them all season. Although the statistics for each team were very similar, the only statistic that mattered was the score, which ended a drought for the Rivermen and sent the team home with a moral boost.

When the Rivermen returned home for the current homestand, the team had hopes of starting a new streak, but the first objective was to defend their home turf against yet another 11-7 foe. The Indianapolis University Greyhounds were to be the first contestant to face the Rivermen at home since breaking the losing streak.

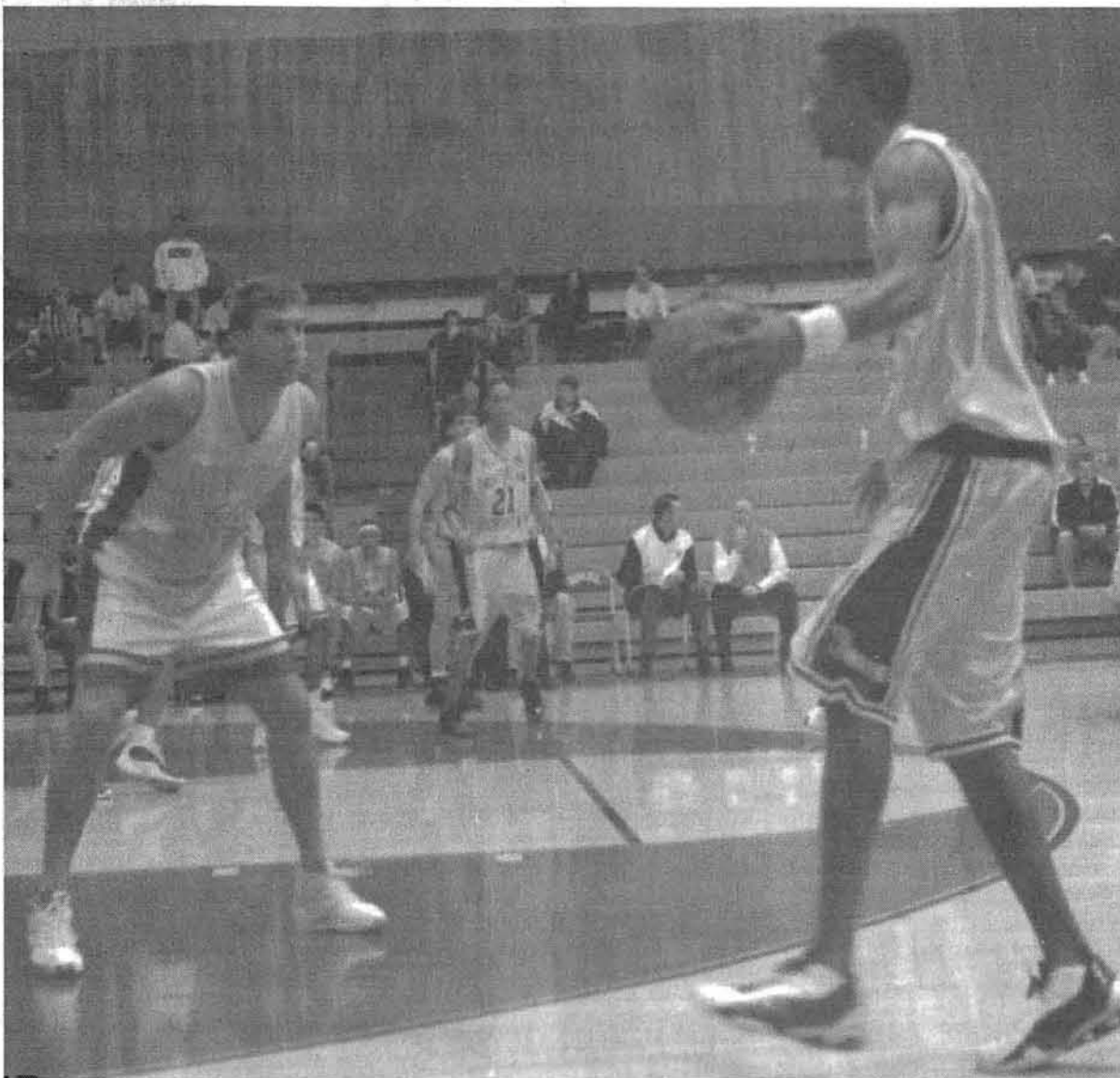
Although the Rivermen were outscored 33-27 in the first half, the play of 6'8" Scott Kassel was impressive. The Shaq-like performance had the Greyhounds timid of bringing the ball to the goal. Instead the visitors elected to show a display of outside shots, including 10-28 from the three.

The decision for the Greyhounds to stay outside did become a factor in the second half, when the shots that were falling previously, started hitting more iron than net. This opened the door for the inside play of the Rivermen.

Despite the huge play of the trees in the middle for the Rivermen, the inability to make free throws did in fact become a huge factor in the outcome of the game. When the Greyhounds took the 64-63 lead with two and a half minutes remaining, the score would not change and the Rivermen's air was once again lifted from their sails, falling to Indy.

But on the shoulders of Kassel's double-double and once again another good game by Redd who scored 10, the Rivermen definitely needed an alternative scorer to these two players.

In the final game of the weekend, the Rivermen fell to Northern Kentucky University 78-73. NKU hit 16 three-pointers as UM-St. Louis fell to 7-10 on the season, 3-9 in GLVC play.



Riverman Scott Kassel defends a NKU shooter in Saturday's game. NKU won the contest 78-73.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

SPORTS OPINION

Greek play at halftime a great idea

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
Staff Editor

I do not know who was in charge of organizing this event, but whoever did was absolutely the most brilliant person at UM-St. Louis that I have not met yet. Somebody decided that because the men's and women's basketball programs are not receiving the attendance and support they deserve for their sacrifice of time in their sport, they would invite the two Greek fraternities, and only two fraternities that UM-St. Louis has, to play a basketball game against each other at half-time of the men's game.

That is the most brilliant thing in the entire world to do if you are Athletic Director Pat Dolan or anyone who wants to create more of a college atmosphere in the Mark Twain Gym. You want the gym to be loud and you want people to show up to the games and support the Rivermen and Riverwomen. The publicity on campus is apparently not working so you start at the root and work your way up.

Everyone at UM-St. Louis knows that Greek life is a different life than being a commuter. There is more involvement at school and giving back. The Greeks, whether it be the sororities or fraternities, have a strong hold on the university and someone just finally realized it.

If you get the Greeks to show up to see them play each other at half-time of the game, you may have people begin to show up and watch them play and sit and watch the first and second half of the game, more than anything out of socialization, but there are bodies in the seats.

The Greeks bring their friends and their friends bring more people and it becomes a continuous cycle until finally, there is support for the basketball teams at UM-St. Louis. I mean for all that is human, my old high school (CBC) had more people at their games than UM-St. Louis does. Granted we had a future NBA player on our team, but it just goes to show that UM-St. Louis needs to find some school spirit. They need to attract students to the

games with anything and everything they have.

Without any incentive, why would a student go to a basketball game besides to meet up before they go out and drink themselves into an oblivion? They wouldn't. One game this year I saw support and because why? They were giving away an X Box.

All of the Greeks showed up and many student organizations even showed up because there was a prize of \$100 or \$200 given away to the organization who showed up with the most members. Guess which student organizations won? A sorority- Zeta Tau Alpha and a fraternity- Sigma Tau Gamma.

The Greeks make noise on the campus at UM-St. Louis and someone is finally realizing that all of their positive energy can be used to benefit the sports teams. Look at real universities—they all have a strong Greek background and their student support of their athletic teams is tremendous. It is time to give the Greeks at UM-St. Louis their respect.

R-Women are losers of six

BY CHARLIE BAILEY
Staff Writer

For the UM-St. Louis women's basketball program, the current six game losing streak has put a damper on what was a hopeful season.

With an overall record of 6-12, and a conference record at a lowly 3-9, the Riverwomen have almost guaranteed themselves a permanent spot at the bottom of the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

As the 'soft' games passed with very few W's in the left column, the Riverwomen were about to challenge the big dogs of the GLVC, or at least teams with better records.

The first obstacle for the struggling Riverwomen was a contest against the 4-8 Wisconsin-Parkside. UM-St. Louis started the game with a five point lead, on back to back buckets by Lynette Wellen and Christy Lane. Despite the hot start by the Riverwomen, the Rangers from Parkside would not roll over so soon.

The first half of the game saw 17 lead changes and four ties, which had both teams optimistic with their early performances. The second half started with an up-tempo.

The score remained close until the Riverwomen went on a four-minute scoring drought. Lucky for the Riverwomen, the Rangers could only capitalize by scoring only six points, but with their lead already six, the deficit now grew to a 12-point advantage for the Rangers.

As the water rose, the Riverwomen were close to drowning once again. But the resilient play a super freshman Ebony Halliburton once again bailed the bewildered Riverwomen from the treacherous waters.

Although the play of Halliburton was special, the play of the Rangers as a whole seemed to be too much for the slumping Riverwomen who again struck with another run.

Despite some last minute heroics by Lane, the Rangers of Parkside sealed the victory at the line and went on to win 72-65. Some notables in the loss for the Riverwomen were Halliburton, who scored a game high

of 18 and both Wellen and Sophia Ruffin, who added 12 each.

Although the loss to Wisconsin-Parkside was yet another nail in the coffin for the UM-St. Louis women's basketball program, the corpse still does show signs of life.

The following opponent for the Riverwomen on this current home stand was the University of Indianapolis. The Greyhounds brought their 11-6 record to the Mark Twain Center Thursday, where they hoped to spoil another chance for the Riverwomen to get out of their current slump. Behind the strong play of junior Jessica Woods, the Riverwomen had the visiting Greyhounds concerned about their chances of leaving Missouri with a victory.

Because the game was so close, the fast pace kept everyone, including the players on the edge of their seats. An eight-point advantage was the furthest lead that either squad could muster during the up-tempo affair. Although each team did attempt to pull away during the game, the women of both teams showed resilience to cut into any lead that was apparent.

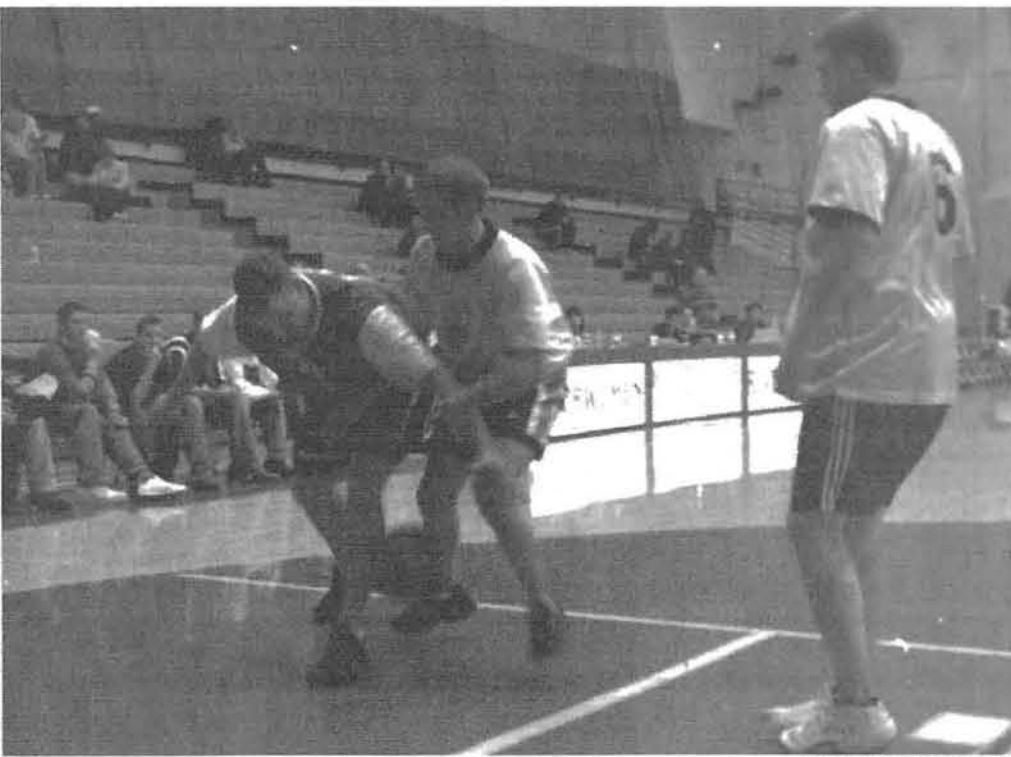
Even though the Riverwomen did match everything that the Greyhounds could shell out, the game would be decided by a crucial mistake with seconds left. As the Riverwomen tried to stop yet another last second loss with some tenacious defense, a critical foul was called against the Riverwomen which put the Greyhounds to the line.

The foul did in fact put the game into the hands of the Greyhounds, and eventually the victory. For the second game in a row the Riverwomen were shocked at home, but on a positive note Woods recorded another double-double, with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

The guard play in the game was also impressive, where Senior Sophia Ruffin scored 12 and Halliburton knocked down some key baskets. In the final game of the weekend, the Riverwomen faced off against Northern Kentucky University. In the first half, the Riverwomen started with 4-0 run topped by a lay-up by Ruffin.

see BASKETBALL, page 8

The two greek fraternities of UM-St. Louis, Sigma Pi and Sigma Tau Gamma, play a basketball game against each other at half-time of the men's game. Although no score was kept, the game proved very entertaining to the 200 on hand for the event.



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Will the Rams be in the Big Easy?



LATEST SCOOP
DAVE KINWORTHY

Will the Rams make it to the Super Bowl is the big question that is asked to almost every St. Louisan in town right now. Well, since I am writing this before the Rams played the Eagles this past Sunday, I am going to make a couple of predictions about our Rams and their possibilities to go to the Super Bowl.

If the Rams want to go to the Super Bowl, the key to the game is defense, because it wins games. That may sound dumb, like on television when people say the keys to the game are scoring more than their opponent, playing sound defense and getting great goaltending or playing as a team. Those are just generic blahs that you hear before each game in predicting what a team must do to win. I could

say those things about intramural sports.

But the defense is what the Rams are counting on to take them to their second Super Bowl since they moved to St. Louis. The offense can outgun any team in this league, but to win the games, as our Rams' team of last season showed, you cannot have a poor defensive unit and expect the offense to carry the load for the team.

The Rams were brilliant during this past off-season picking up Aeneas Williams and even the brilliant play of Tommy Polley has impressed any professional in the league now. Polley was just a reserve who came in because of injuries, but has excelled with this speedy and aggressive defense.

A feature was on television about

how Polley has never been on a losing team, and his competitiveness and capabilities of a winning attitude only secured this Rams' defensive side even more than before.

London Fletcher is a savior. Last season he came up big and this season again, he is just a stud at his position. The speed and agility that he brought to the defense last season and this year can only please Lovie Smith.

Smith has instilled a sense of pride on this defensive side of the ball for the Rams. Critics said the Rams were too soft on the defensive side of the ball and last season proved them right. But Smith regrouped the troops for a fierce battle with themselves, mentally and physically and got them ready to do the job that they were capable of doing

all along. Smith has been a brilliant addition to the Rams and St. Louis is lucky if he doesn't get picked up as a head coach somewhere during this off-season.

The game against the Eagles, in my prediction, is going to be the battle of two teams who should defeat any AFC team, whether it be the Pittsburgh Steelers or the New England Controversial Patriots. The contest is going to come down to whose defense is better. Can the Eagles stop Warner and the great wide receivers and Marshall Faulk and can the Rams stop Donovan McNabb, who seems destined for stardom? Those questions will be answered by the time this column is run in The Current, but until then, GO RAMS!

SPORTS

EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

UMSL Students Get Their Shot at Trashing Campus Parking Tickets

"Fill the Gym" Night - Thursday, February 7 - Men's and Women's Basketball vs. Quincy

Do you have a campus parking or speeding ticket? Would you like to have that ticket torn up and thrown away? And can you hit a jump shot on the basketball court?

If you answered yes to these questions, your dreams could come true! Just come out to the UMSL women's and men's basketball doubleheader on Thursday, February 7, for "Fill the Gym" night as UMSL battles Quincy University.

Beginning at tipoff of the women's game at 5:30 pm, UMSL students will get opportunities to make a three-point shot during breaks in the action of both games. If you make the shot, UMSL campus police will be on hand to tear up and throw away one outstanding campus parking or speeding tickets you have. You must have your ticket with you, and then hit the jumper from beyond the arc and kiss that ticket goodbye!

Come out and enjoy the exciting action of UMSL Basketball as the teams battle Quincy University and take your shot at hitting a three-pointer to trash a campus ticket you have!

Thursday, February 7 - UMSL vs. Quincy

Women's Game - 5:30 pm
Men's Game - 7:45 pm

WEB

www.ums.edu/
services/athletics

for the latest sports news
and information



EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

A&E Campus Calendar

EVENTS

January

29

Singer/songwriter, Larry Kirwan will perform a concert from 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m., in Room 205 of the Music Building. The Concert is free and open to the public. For more information please call International Studies at 516-6495.

March

3

The University Chamber Winds will perform a concert at 3 p.m. in the Provincial Chapel. The event is free and open to the public. Please contact 516-2263 for more details.

7

March 7-April 6
Gallery 210 will present "Graphic Work by Robert Stackhouse: Drawing and Prints from the Belger Foundation." Gallery 210 is open from Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information call 516-5592.

MOVIE MARQUEE



CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

'Lord of the Rings' rules them all

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

In the prologue, the magical ring is described as "one ring to rule them all." The film "Lord of the Rings" is the fantasy epic that rules over all fantasy epics, doing for its genre what "Star Wars" did for science fiction-breaking the barrier in filmmaking.

It's difficult to make a great film out of a great book. The more revered the book, the more difficult the task. This film does what it sets out to do and more, offering a cinematic version that satisfies fans of Tolkien while engrossing everyone unfamiliar with the tale. This film is just as good as it looks in the previews, just as good as you hoped, for fans of the books. However, you don't have to be familiar with the books or even a fan of fantasy tales-the film finds the human heart of the story; this epic crosses the path of all human epics and legends. The only bit of information you really need to enjoy the film is the fact that this is the first part of a three-part story. "Lord of the Rings" is an epic film about good and evil, bravery and sacrifice, more than it's about elves and wizards.

That's not to say it doesn't deliver on the magic and special effects. There are marvelous special effects and plenty of action. The extremely high quality of the visual effects and their near-seamless blending with the live action is part of why this film works so well.

There are sweeping battles, beautifully choreographed one-on-one action sequences, breathtaking pursuits and heart-pounding suspense. There are beautiful location shots of New Zealand, skillfully blended with the fantasy elements of the Middle Earth. But where the average film



Frodo (Elijah Wood) takes in the beauty of Rivendell in Lord of the Rings.

would be content with this level of accomplishment, "Lord of the Rings" adds a timeless tale presented by talented actors. The story works because of the focus on the actors and the fact that the characters are played as individual people, not generic elves or other fantastic creatures.

The premise of the story is the rediscovery of a powerful magical ring-a ring linked to a long-banished evil sorcerer warlord-and lost when the would-be conqueror was defeated. This ring, an object almost alive and with a taste for evil, has now reappeared in the hands of an unlikely creature, a hobbit named Bilbo Baggins (Ian Holm). It has to be destroyed to prevent the return of the evil wizard to which it is inextricably bound, a task that falls to Bilbo's cousin Frodo (Elijah Wood). Instead of a quest to

obtain a fabulous object, the heroes of this tale set out to destroy the mystic object before it destroys everything in their world.

I read Tolkien's trilogy several years ago and while I enjoyed them, I was never a devoted fan. This film is based on the first book of the trilogy and is more properly called "Lord of the Rings: the Fellowship of the Ring." While I am not the serious fan of the books, the director of this film, Peter Jackson, is such a fan, which is an enormous boost to the project. Besides his love of the material, Jackson was the right person to do this film since he also owns a special effects studio and has made several special effects-driven movies, although nothing like this project.

see RINGS, page 8

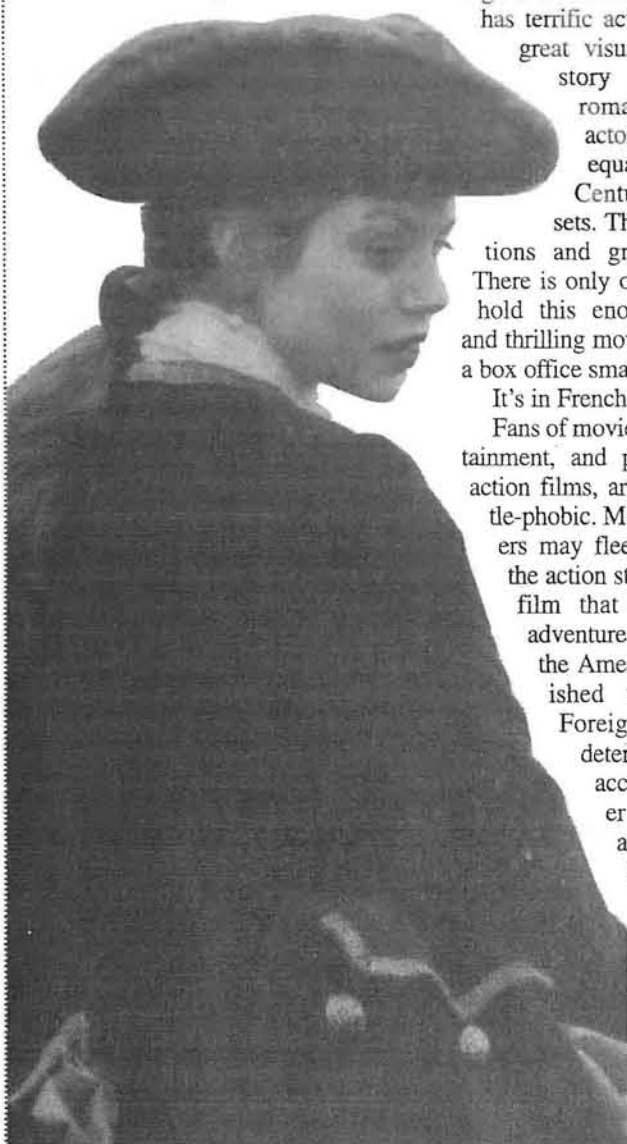


"One ring to rule them all."

MOVIE REVIEWS

Hunt down 'the Wolf' for great action and mystery

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor



The new film "Brotherhood of the Wolf" seems to have everything a great entertainment film needs. It has terrific action sequences plus great visuals with mystic, a story of mystery and romance, gorgeous actors and actresses in equally gorgeous 18th Century costumes and sets. There were lush locations and great camera work. There is only one thing that might hold this enormously enjoyable and thrilling movie back from being a box office smash.

It's in French. Fans of movies that are just entertainment, and particularly fans of action films, are particularly subtle-phobic. Many of these filmgoers may flee the theater before the action starts, losing out on a film that is just rollicking adventure and action, much in the American style and polished to a high gloss. Foreign film fans, not deterred by subtitles but accustomed to weightier intellectual stuff and art films, will not be as drawn to this film, since it is just pure entertainment, not history, despite the fact that its based on an old French legend. This movie is not great art, just

loads of enjoyment.

Set in 18th Century France, the legend centers on a beast terrorizing the southern French countryside. This huge animal attacks only women and children and flees at the sight of men. The local noble is convinced that the beast is an enormous wolf and the king has dispatched soldiers to help hunt the killer down. Finally, the king also sends a world-traveled naturalist and his Iroquois companion to help identify the beast. What they uncover is a larger mystery than a marauding animal.

This film has been a big hit in Europe, and it's almost surprising how American in style it is. The action is not traditional swordplay but more in the style of martial arts and reminiscent of "The Matrix," but more rooted in the laws of physics and gravity. The mystery is full of surprises and twists, and there is a bit of a romance, although overall it's more a "guy" movie than not. The use of photographic effects give the film a pulse pounding pace through the action sequences, although the pace of the movie drags a bit near the end. The actors all look great and carry off their roles with epic style.

The movie has a few flaws, but it's not supposed to be a historical film, it just has a historical setting. The story is as engrossing as the action and there is so much emphasis on the action and the plot twists, that you'll soon forget the subtitles. If you like great action films, don't let a few subtitles hold you back from a wild ride of fun.

'Royal Tenenbaums' is king of comedy

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

"The Royal Tenenbaums" is a quirky but very funny comedy about the Tenenbaums, a family of child geniuses, now grown, whose long-estranged, rather shady father, Royal Tenenbaum, returns to the family home. The film has plenty of laugh-out loud oddball humor; but as the film unfolds, it develops an unexpected depth and heart, too.

Despite childhoods of accomplishments, none of the Tenenbaums have fulfilled their early promise. While not exactly failures, they all appear to be drifting aimlessly or insulating themselves from life. Their long-absent father might have aristocratic manners but at heart he's a shady adventurer looking for a quick buck but not finding it. When this con man gets evicted from the comfortable hotel he's managed to stay in for many years, he pleads with his estranged wife Etheline to allow him to return to the house by falsely claiming he's dying. Despite meeting a certain level of skepticism from his children, he eventually is allowed to move in. That's all he needs. What ensues is a hilarious roller coaster of silliness as he starts to turn the family upside down.

The heart of this film is its characters, who are both eccentric and charming. Suddenly, all the children return home, just as Royal has, so the family is present altogether in their big house. Each of the children is lost and confused in some way, sidetracked



Gene Hackman plays Royal Tenenbaum.

from their early focus and accomplishments. Margot (Gwyneth Paltrow), an award-winning playwright as a girl, no longer writes but spends hours in the bathtub smoking cigarettes. The former world's youngest tennis pro Richie (Luke Wilson) lost a crucial adult match and now just wanders the world, traveling on ships of various types. The child financial wizard Chas (Ben Stiller) is obsessed with keeping

see ROYAL, page 8

How a movie theater receives four stars

Do you have a favorite movie theater? Usually people have a favorite club or restaurant, a place you like to go, a place to hang out with friends. A lot of factors will go into what makes a favorite place. Being close by or handy might help make some place a favorite, but other factors can draw you to a place farther away. Maybe you like a place because it's comfortable, or quirky and different. For a nightclub, the kind of music is often near the top of the list, and everyone picks a place their friends like too-place that suits who you are and what you like. Everybody has a favorite.

Because I spend a lot of time in movie theaters, I have favorite theaters. If you're a big movie fan, you too have a theater you like.

Your favorite movie theater might be close to your home but sometimes

there are other factors, just like for a favorite club or restaurant. Besides location, a number of factors add up to a great movie theater. Basically, you might see three big factors: the kind of films shown (which effects the audience and therefore your viewing experience), the visual appeal and ambience of the theater, and the creature comforts - concessions, comfortable seats, good sound system, likeable staff.

The first factor is the kind of movie the theater shows. Actually not all theaters show the same kinds of films. You want to see the kind of movie you like. There are two big divisions in theaters here, which I'll call "mainstream" and "alternative." "Mainstream" means all the broad appeal films, the typical American films in English. "Alternative" means foreign films, independent rather than Hollywood-

style films, art films and films that are very non-typical. Some one might dispute the category for a particular film, but this will give you the general idea. Because the differences can be so large, I'll talk about two groups of favorite theaters separately.

Some people go to both types of theaters, but many people only like one or the other. The kind of film will also influence the kind of audience a theater has. Different audiences have different behavior, with older or more serious film fans being quieter and politer audiences than audiences for mass appeal movies, where there are always a few folks who act as if they are watching a video at home and talk through the film. Mainstream movies mean more teens in the audience and family movies mean a lot of kids. While both audiences are noisy, the kid

audiences are easier to forgive and might be less deliberately obnoxious. The theater will cater to their audience - one will have lots of video games, another will have gourmet coffee. So the kind of film and audience go together.

A second factor is the look of the theater. An appealing décor is important. A good theater will have style, a lobby with interesting things to examine, and preferable a visual theme that suits its films or at least has charm and appeal. It has to look like a special place, like a movie theater, not like a warehouse or other non-descript building.

A third factor are the creature comforts of the theatre-going experience. Being clean is a basic. Seats, sound system and concessions are big factors, but a personable and responsive staff matters too. A good big screen, good

sightlines, everything clean and in good repair make for a more pleasant theater experience. Good fresh popcorn is a must.

In the next few weeks, I'll talk about my picks for the best movie theaters in the St. Louis area. Maybe these are some of your favorites too or maybe you'll discover a theater you hadn't tried but which will interest you. Because I like a variety of films, I tend to like the theaters that show more than just the mainstream movies and so my top three picks are three "alternative" theaters.

I go to mainstream films as well and I picked two favorites for those too. I like the top three theaters on this list so much and they have such great stories to go with them and the people who run them, that I'm going to do in-depth stories on all of them.

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Personals

Hey Tom,

Sorry I missed your birthday. Hope my design doesn't suck too much this week.

Dear Kelli,

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Deciphering the language of sugar



MICAH ISSITT
Science Columnist

In recent years, with the onset of genetic research, scientists have been paying a great deal of attention to the roles of nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) and proteins. These macromolecules are generally considered to be the way that cells transmit and use information.

There are four kinds of macromolecules that make up all cells: nucleotides (DNA and RNA), polypeptides (proteins), lipids (fat and oils and their like), and polysaccharides (sugars). Nucleotides are used to form polypeptide molecules or proteins. Certain patterns of nucleotides form a code, which stands

for the formation of proteins. These proteins carry out all of the work inside the cell. Basically, the nucleotides are used to carry cellular instructions, and proteins carry out these instructions.

Research on the remaining macromolecules, polysaccharides and lipids, has focused on the use of these molecules as structural components of cells. However, recent research published in 2000 by H.-J. Gabius in the German journal

"Naturwissenschaften" highlights the role of polysaccharides as possible information carriers, a role usually reserved for nucleotides. Gabius' research shows that polysaccharides may be as important to information transfer as nucleotides like DNA. Research on nucleotides has made us all familiar with the idea of the "genetic code," and this surprising new research tells us that there may also be a "sugar code" functioning inside cells.

Researchers studying the role of proteins as informational molecules often mention the large number of possible protein combinations that can

be made from the 20 amino acids found in nature. This number reaches the impressive figure of 6.4×10^7 . Examination of polysaccharides shows that sugars can form upwards of 1.44×10^{15} different structural combinations—several orders of magnitude more than proteins. This indicates that sugars have the versatility to form an impressively large informational system, perhaps even more complex and specific than the protein system.

Scientists have also identified special kinds of proteins called ligands that seem to be specialized for translation of the sugar language. Each lig-

and molecule is specific to a type of sugar molecule and the ligands have receptor sites that bind to structures on sugar molecules. New research into the nature of ligands has led to the formation of a kind of ligand family tree, which is rapidly being matched with certain families of polysaccharides.

With all of this structural versatility, polysaccharides may have a wide variety of informational functions. Sugars can be attached to proteins and lipids to give these molecules additional informational properties. Sugar molecules can also be used directly as information molecules, transmitting messages between cells or within

cells. Exchange of sugar molecules can affect the structural transformations or the bonding properties of cells.

Considering all the possible uses for sugars as information carriers, this research indicates that polysaccharides may be as important to information flow as DNA or RNA. Sugars represent an untapped dimension of information awaiting more detailed research.

Scientists working on the sugar code also believe that their research may lead to important new advances in the applied sciences like biotechnology and medicine.

Several cellular maladies have been linked to malfunctions in sugar molecules and it is possible that research into the manufacture and manipulation of polysaccharides may allow scientists to deal with these cellular difficulties. In addition, once the informational nature of sugars is more completely understood, special sugar molecules may be engineered to target and combat cellular dysfunctions.

This type of applied research could open up a whole new field of medi-

cine, utilizing sugars as specifically targeted medical aids. Today, 20 percent of the new drugs tested are based on genetic engineering. Deciphering the language of sugars could yield a new family of medication.

Cellular processes cannot be sufficiently explained by the activities of proteins and nucleotides alone. The sugar code may help scientists to elucidate some of the persistent questions that cannot be explained through genetic theory.

In 1953, when Watson and Crick discovered the basic functions of the genetic system, they opened a new chapter in our understanding of life. In the years that followed genetics research seemed as if it were reading the very secrets of life from the genetic code. Again research has found new pieces of this biological text written in sugar, containing secrets that were previously unimagined. Life, it seems, may be written in more than one volume, each one adding a chapter to an epic story. In the years to come no one can predict what scrolls are still hidden, and what amazing languages are left to be translated.

Some credits not given credit at UM- St. Louis

BY FARIKA RUSLI
Staff Writer

The 1,823 transfer students during the fall semester of 2001 makes UM-St. Louis the No. 1 transfer institution in the state of Missouri. According to Melissa Hattman from the Office of Admissions, the transfer population comes primarily from St. Louis Community College- Meremac, the No. 1 feeder community college, and UM-Columbia, the No. 1 feeder university.

Although transfer students face many problems with their transitions, one of the most common difficulties is the transferring of credits.

Ryan Kolter, computer science major who transferred from Cleveland State University and Miami University, complained that every class he had taken previously did transfer, but some of them transferred in as electives.

"For example, the majority of the math classes I stressed and sweated

over to pass didn't match up with any of our math classes here," Kolter said.

"In a couple cases, I had passed a class that matched with one here, but the class I took didn't equal enough semester credits to fulfill the requirement. I had two credit hours of Trigonometry, but [I] need three for the requirement. Now I have to stress and sweat and pay again."

Trying to solve this problem, Kolter contacted his adviser.

"The adviser I spoke with seemed very knowledgeable and willing to work with me; but when it came to reassigning my courses, they didn't have the ability to help. One called the math department and got a hold of someone who said they would call back, but they never did. I think that UM-St. Louis in general needs to be a lot more flexible when it comes to having services available for their night students," Kolter said.

Responding to this situation, Leonard Trudo, international admission officer, explained that the

"The transfer students have some responsibilities in making sure that they get their transcript from their other university."

—Lynn Willits
Advising Center

American students' transcripts will be automatically entered into the system and converted into general education credits, elective credits, major/minor credits or no credit by the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) located in MSC 261.

Tinawaty Ng, international transfer student from Insearh Institute of Commerce-University of Technology in Sydney, is majoring in international business and trade and found that some courses she had taken were different and some other subjects could-

n't be transferred such as accounting and law.

"I understand Australia and America [have] different types of laws and accounting systems. However, I like the American way of teaching better than the Australian," Ng said. For international students, transferring credit is handled by Maryann Souris. She admitted that the biggest problem is some universities do not provide course descriptions or do not offer them in English.

"We do not require them to be professionally translated because we have enough people around here that speak enough languages to help making translation," Souris said.

There are not many differences in American universities' course descriptions. But if a student finds any objection, he can go back to DARS, which will send any catalogue of any university to the department. The department will then

decide if the other institution's course will count or not.

According to Lisa Stageman from DARS, in Kolter's case, he doesn't have to take the trigonometry class anymore but has to fulfill the graduation requirements with another course. Stageman recommended students to meet their academic adviser before appealing so that they will have enough information. However, Trudo suggested students not to transfer at the junior or senior level because sometimes their credits do not transferred well.

"However, the transfer students have some responsibilities in making sure that they get their transcript from their other university so that when they are registering for the classes, we know what classes they have taken and how they equal to courses we have here," said Lynn Willits from the Advising Center.

BUDGET, from page 1

sure on our extended campuses to provide more courses and our Murray campus to provide more opportunities and support more people.

"We're being asked to do more things for more people. The question is will society invest in these demands?"

KIRWAN, from page 3

many in local NYC Irish bars such as Reilly's, Wetland's and Connolly's.

In 1996, a college audience began to pour into the pubs and younger fans cheered the band on. Black 47 tour dates this year include Boston College, Villanova College, Pennsylvania, New York area bars, and the Irish Festival in Fort Lauderdale on Feb. 16.

Gearoid O'Allmhurain, Music and Irish Studies professor and Black 47

Alexander said employment may be affected because the University may not be able to fill currently advertised job positions. He said the filling of those positions would be postponed.

Denton said the last economic estimates for a "flat," or stagnant, economy for the period of July 1 to June 30,

2003, and a possible slight upturn in the economy from July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004, were still accurate.

State universities and the Council on Post-Secondary Education use economic estimates of the upcoming two years to determine tuition rates each fall.

BASKETBALL, from page 4

At the 16:29 mark, a jumper by NKU's Amy Mobley tied the game for the first time with a score of 7-7. The trailed by seven points at the 7:54 mark when the first time with a score of 7-7. The Norse took the lead on a made foul shot until UM-St. Louis sparked a 5-0 run. The Norse trailed by seven points at the 7:54 mark when the

Riverwomen would hit six unanswered points to lead by 13 points. UM-St. Louis went into halftime with the Riverwomen's largest lead of 16 points with a score of 52-36.

But NKU would rally from 15 points back to defeat the Riverwomen 81-79. UM-St. Louis was led by Christy Lane with 26 points and 10

rebounds. Halliburton added a career high of 23 points and Sophia Ruffin contributed nine points on the afternoon. With a three game home losing streak, the UM-St. Louis women have been paralyzed in close games that come down to the final two minutes of the game.

RINGS, from page 6

Regardless of what you think of tales of magic, J.R.R. Tolkien's tale is steeped in his appreciation of the epic as a story form and his knowledge of linguistics and love of history. The completeness of the world that this academician constructed and its ability to tap into universal themes about good and evil is why the story is so compelling and believable. Director Peter Jackson's deep respect for the original work, plus his skill and expertise in special effect movie making is why this film is so successful. Since any film is the vision of the director, if the director

is willing to subvert his artistic expression to serve a great story better, you have the beginning of a great adaptation.

Performances by Cate Blanchett as the elf queen Galadriel and Ian McKellen as the wizard named Gandolf are magical indeed, and the high quality is maintained by all the perfectly cast actors. Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn, Liv Tyler as Arwen and Elijah Wood as Frodo all turn in performances that are strikingly memorable and letter perfect for their characters. The film has a bit of a slow start

with a lengthy introduction of the tale but this is a minor flaw, for once started, everything flows beautifully. The end of the film will leave you eager to see the next installment, due out next winter. Since all three parts were shot simultaneously, there seems little chance the quality will drop and no chance of cast members vanishing or aging too much for their roles.

This film is a great experience that will awe you with its epic sweep, riveting performances, and great visual effects. It will leave you hungry for that next installment.

ROYAL, from page 6

his two young sons Ari (Grant Rosenmeyer) and Uzi (Jonah Meyerson) safe after the accidental death of his wife. While Chas still makes money, he and his sons only dress in matching jogging suits and endlessly drill for potential disasters. Eli Cash (Owen Wilson), a neighbor who is Richie's childhood friend and almost a member of the family, is now the author of various sleazy non-fiction books and the darling of the talk shows, but he still longs to be a Tenenbaum and keeps a foot in the

family. Etheline Tenenbaum (Anjelica Huston) has made a life for herself as an archeologist but can't quite give in to her long time beau and colleague, the shyly sweet Henry (Danny Glover), who wants to marry her. Gene Hackman is delightful as the superior, absurd Royal Tenenbaum, who steps in and disrupts all the quiet drift.

The ensemble acting is marvelous. All the characters start to realize what they really want in life and, despite their initial intentions, start to change as people, as if reuniting the family

under one roof starts an unstoppable reaction.

For the film itself, what starts as a rather oddball comedy becomes something much deeper and much more moving. The film finally blossoms into a kind of tale about the effect of people in your life. The director's previous film was good, but this one is mature and cohesive in a way that one wasn't.

It's just one heck of a film, a comedy that moves beyond its genre into human reality. It's a lovely and funny experience.



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